



BLACKSTONE VALLEY

TOURISM COUNCIL

February 11, 2021

The Honorable Marvin L. Abney
Chairman, House Finance Committee
Room 35, State House
Providence, RI 02903

Dear Chairman Abney:

I hope this note finds you well and safe during these challenging times.

I am writing to encourage the House Finance Committee and the entire House of Representatives to pass H - 5223. In short, this legislation is critical to the continued mission of the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council.

As you are well aware, this legislation will infuse \$250 million of economic activity into the Rhode Island economy by two of the state's most respected corporate citizens – IGT and Twin River Worldwide Holdings. Moreover, it preserves well into the future 1,100 high paying jobs and paves the way for a valuable 50,000 square foot addition to the Twin River casino in Lincoln, Rhode Island.

From our perspective, another important component of the legislation is it gives Twin River management the ability to more directly manage the casino floor, to replace under-performing machines with more popular ones and in so doing, increase the state's share of gaming revenue. As one of the Blackstone Valley's premier tourist destination, we must do all we can to allow this important venue to not only survive – but thrive. Clearly, a tall order in this environment and we are in awe of the continued commitment of these two companies to make good on promises made pre Covid-19.

I hope you will take into consideration the strong support the Blackstone Valley Tourism Council has for this legislation in your deliberations, and I remain at your disposal to provide further testimony, should it be required.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Robert Billington, President
Blackstone Valley Tourism Council

Cc: K. Joseph Shekarchi, Speaker of the House
Christopher Blazejewski, Majority Leader